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## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Conditions in District Brezno nad Hronom: Conversion of Piesok Machinery Factory to Military Production/ Mining and Airfield Developments/ Alleged Partisan Activity/Czech - Slovak Antagonism

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Piesok Factory

2. "The machinery factory at Piesok, district Brezno nad Hronom has 1,500-1,800 employees. As of November 1951, it had fulfilled the Five Year Plan just 70% because of the excessive norms and the lack of tools, especially those imported from Switzerland, the UK and Germany (Federal Republic)-- knives for the turners. The normal peacetime production of davits and spare parts for heavy machinery and locomotives was switched at the beginning of November 1952 to purely military production: spare parts for heavy tanks,lafets [sic; may be typographical error in original text] for guns and other spare parts for heavy artillery.

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Mining Developments

4. "New pits for the production of manganese and uranium ore were opened November 1952 near the village of Podhorca, district Brezno nad Hronom.

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5. "There was a recent geological survey near the village of Helpa.

Airfield Development

6. "The old airfield at Brezno nad Hronom was being rebuilt in autumn 1952 by army units. It is to become an airfield for jet fighters.

Alleged Partisan Activity

7. "In October 1952 STB and SNB units arrested 84 civilians, men and women, in various villages in district Brezno nad Hronom (including Cierny Balog, Hronec and Podhora) on charges of giving relief to Slovak partisans or making statements that they were ready to join the 'white partisans' commanded by US pilots. STB agents dressed in US Army Air Force uniforms visited the homes of villagers and asked for food, clothing and weapons. The villagers who fell for such provocation were arrested. The first sergeant of the security corps at Cierny Balog Sulak was also arrested during this 'partisan' incident.

8. [ ] do not believe that there are many partisan units in central or eastern Slovakia. All the mountain villages are infiltrated by Communist informers who use all possible means to sound out local loyalties. [ ] always [ ] partisan sabotage incidents in Slovakia during 1950-52 [ ] always turn out to be rumors--in some cases spread purposely by the STB and the Communists. [ ] 90% of the Slovaks would be ready to fight on the side of the West in any war against the Soviets. [ ] do not believe that Slovakia could be liberated by organized partisan groups or a 'shooting' underground movement. It might be liberated by revolting workers. The differences between the Czechs and the Slovaks have increased since 1948 due to deliberate Communist tactics. The key positions in the security corps in Bohemia and Moravia are in the hands of Slovaks; the key positions in the security corps in Slovakia are in the hands of the Czechs. If Czechs make trouble, Slovak units are sent to quell them. If Slovaks make trouble, Czech units are sent in.

Anti-German Attitude

9. "The anti-German attitude in Czechoslovakia has not changed since the end of World War II. Most people do not want to see the return of the Sudeten Germans to Czechoslovakia. The Communists exploit this anti-German attitude by emphasizing memories of the Gestapo and concentration camps.

Status of the Church

10. "The Catholic priest in the village of Cierny Balog was scheduled for arrest in September 1952. The villagers, especially the women, protected him against the police. The police left him alone but arrested instead four of the civilians who had protected him."

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